

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting June 21, 2001 2:00PM Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Mr. Robert C. Daniel, Mrs. Susan Hoag, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Doug McTeer, Mr. Joel Smith, Mr. Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 17 were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

- (1) Recommendations from the cyclical review of the English/Language Arts Curriculum Standards: Mr. Wilson summarized the recommendations regarding the results of the cyclical review of the ELA standards. The Committee unanimously adopted the recommendations.
- (2) Information on the inclusion of foreign language information on the report card: Mr. Wilson reported that representatives from the SC Foreign Language Teachers Association had presented a proposal to the Subcommittee regarding the inclusion of information on foreign language instruction on the report cards. Staff from the Education Oversight Committee and the State Department of Education will work with the group to determine how such information can be included on future report cards.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

The EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee has not met since the May 17 full Committee meeting and did not submit a report.

C. Parent Involvement

Ms. Melanie Barton reported for Mrs. Thompson that the Subcommittee had reviewed the curriculum standards designed for parents to be printed for distribution. Each school district will receive three copies of the pamphlets and a CD containing the pamphlet documents for printing and distribution. The standards will also be placed on the EOC web site. Ms. Barton also reported that there were no satisfactory proposals in response to the request for proposals to develop the parent surveys for the report cards and for gauging parent satisfaction with home-school relations. Staff are currently exploring other avenues for developing the surveys.

D. Public Awareness

Mr. Smith reported on the plans for ETV programs in August and October promoting public awareness and understanding of the report cards and the school ratings. He also described the progress of the report card Tool Kit summer workshops for educators and business leaders and reviewed the contents of the Tool Kits.

E. Staff and Administration

Mr. Barnet reviewed the agenda for the retreat July 19-20 and reminded members that there would be a two-hour orientation for new Committee members on Thursday morning, July 19.

IV. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Mr. Barnet introduced Mr. Charles V. Noyes, II and Ms. Martha Watkins, representing the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. They presented the chamber's *Benchmark Study of Sumter County School Districts 2 and 17*. The study was part of the chamber's visioning and planning process. It compiled comparative statistics on student performance, teachers, school finance, and demographics for demographically similar school districts and for school districts in the midlands region. The report is being disseminated to business, governmental, educational, and community leaders in Sumter County to inform and motivate interest in the county's educational needs. Mr. Barnet applauded the group for their initiative. Members asked questions for additional details on reactions by the community to the report and on the factors involved in the successful completion of the project.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.